

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A flexible data rate matching method and apparatus by symbol repetition in a data communication system. To generate a sequence of N symbols from a sequence of L code symbols less than the N symbols in a system having an encoder for generating the sequence of L code symbols and a channel interleaver for receiving the sequence of N symbols, symbols at generally equidistant (N-L) positions are detected among the L code symbols. The detected symbols are sequentially inserted before or after the detected symbols by repetition.